

PATENT
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APPLICATION
• FOR
METHOD FOR PREVENTING GASTRITIS
USING AMYLIN OR AMYLIN AGONISTS
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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CHERYL A. WILLIAMS



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METHOD FOR PREVENTING GASTRITIS
USING AMYLIN OR AMYLIN AGONISTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to methods for treating
or preventing gastritis or gastric injury by administering
an amylin or an amylin agonist. The present invention also
relates to the treatment of pain, fever, inflammation,
arthritis, hypercoagulability, or other conditions for
10 which a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug would be
indicated, comprising administering an amylin or an amylin
agonist in conjunction with a non-steroidal anti-
inflammatory drug. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising
an amylin or an amylin agonist and a non-steroidal anti-
inflammatory agent are also described by the present
15 invention.

BACKGROUND

Publications and other materials including patents and
patent applications used to illuminate the specification
are hereby incorporated by reference.

20 Amylin

The structure and biology of amylin have previously
been reviewed. See, for example, Rink et al., *Trends in*
Pharmaceutical Sciences, 14:113-118 (1993); Gaeta and Rink,
Med. Chem. Res., 3:483-490 (1994); and, Pittner et al., *J.*
25 *Cell. Biochem.*, 55S:19-28 (1994).

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Amylin is a 37 amino acid protein hormone. It was isolated, purified and chemically characterized as the major component of amyloid deposits in the islets of pancreases of human Type II diabetics (Cooper et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA 84:8628-8632 (1987)). The amylin molecule has two important post-translational modifications: the C-terminus is amidated, and the cysteines in positions 2 and 7 are cross-linked to form an N-terminal loop. The sequence of the open reading frame of the human amylin gene shows the presence of the Lys-Arg dibasic amino acid proteolytic cleavage signal, prior to the N-terminal codon for Lys, and the Gly prior to the Lys-Arg proteolytic signal at the C-terminal position, a typical sequence for amidation for protein amidating enzyme, PAM (Cooper et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 1014:247-258 (1989)). Amylin is the subject of United Kingdom patent application Serial No. 8709871, filed April 27, 1987, and corresponding United States Patent No. 5,367,052, issued November 22, 1994.

In Type 1 diabetes, amylin has been shown to be deficient, and combined replacement with insulin has been proposed as a preferred treatment over insulin alone in all forms of diabetes. The use of amylin and other amylin agonists for the treatment of diabetes mellitus is the subject of United States Patent No. 5,175,145, issued December 29, 1992. Pharmaceutical compositions containing amylin and amylin plus insulin are described in United States Patent No. 5,124,314, issued June 23, 1992.

Amylin is primarily synthesized in pancreatic beta cells and is secreted in response to nutrient stimuli such

as glucose and arginine. Studies with cloned beta-cell tumor lines (Moore et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 179(1) (1991)), isolated islets (Kanatsuka et al., *FEBS Letts.*, 259(1), 199-201 (1989)) and perfused rat pancreases
5 (Ogawa et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 85:973-976 (1990)) have shown that short pulses, 10 to 20 minutes, of nutrient secretagogues such as glucose and arginine, stimulate release of amylin as well as insulin. The molar amylin:insulin ratio of the secreted proteins varies
10 between preparations from about 0.01 to 0.4, but appears not to vary much with acute stimuli in any one preparation. However, during prolonged stimulation by elevated glucose, the amylin:insulin ratio can progressively increase (Gedulin et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*,
15 180(1):782-789 (1991)). Thus, amylin and insulin are not always secreted in a constant ratio.

It has been discovered and reported that certain actions of amylin are similar to non-metabolic actions of CGRP and calcitonin; however, the metabolic actions of
20 amylin discovered during investigations of this recently identified protein appear to reflect its primary biologic role. At least some of these metabolic actions are mimicked by CGRP, albeit at doses which are markedly vasodilatory (see, e.g., Leighton et al., *Nature*, 335:632-
25 635 (1988)); Molina et al., *Diabetes*, 39:260-265 (1990)).

The first discovered action of amylin was the reduction of insulin-stimulated incorporation of glucose into glycogen in rat skeletal muscle (Leighton et al., *Nature*, 335:632-635 (1988)); the muscle was made "insulin-
30 resistant." Subsequent work with rat soleus muscle ex-vivo

and in vitro has indicated that amylin reduces glycogen synthase activity, promotes conversion of glycogen phosphorylase from the inactive b form to the active a form, promotes net loss of glycogen (in the presence or
5 absence of insulin), increases glucose-6-phosphate levels, and can increase lactate output (see, e.g., Deems et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 181(1):116-120 (1991); Young et al., FEBS Letts, 281(1,2):149-151 (1991)). Amylin appears not to affect glucose transport per se (e.g.,
10 Pittner et al., FEBS Letts., 365(1):98-100 (1995)). Studies of amylin and insulin dose-response relations show that amylin acts as a noncompetitive or functional antagonist of insulin in skeletal muscle (Young et al., Am. J. Physiol., 263(2):E274-E281 (1992)). There is no
15 evidence that amylin interferes with insulin binding to its receptors, or the subsequent activation of insulin receptor tyrosine kinase (Follett et al., Clinical Research, 39(1):39A (1991); Koopmans et al., Diabetologia, 34:218-224 (1991)).
20 It is believed that amylin acts through receptors present in plasma membranes. Studies of amylin and CGRP, and the effect of selective antagonists, suggest that amylin acts via its own receptor (Beaumont et al., Br. J. Pharmacol., 115(5):713-715 (1995); Wang et al., FEBS
25 Letts., 219:195-198 (1991 b)), counter to the conclusion of other workers that amylin may act primarily at CGRP receptors (e.g., Chantry et al., Biochem. J., 277:139-143 (1991); Galeazza et al., Peptides, 12:585-591 (1991); Zhu et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 177(2):771-776

(1991)). Amylin receptors and their use in methods for screening and assaying for amylin agonist and antagonist compounds are described in United States Patent No. 5,264,372, issued November 23, 1993.

5 While amylin has marked effects on hepatic fuel metabolism in vivo, there is no general agreement as to what amylin actions are seen in isolated hepatocytes or perfused liver. The available data do not support the idea that amylin promotes hepatic glycogenolysis, i.e., it does
10 not act like glucagon (e.g., Stephens et al., *Diabetes*, 40:395-400 (1991); Gomez-Foix et al., *Biochem J.*, 276:607-610 (1991)). It has been suggested that amylin may act on the liver to promote conversion of lactate to glycogen and to enhance the amount of glucose able to be liberated by
15 glucagon (see Roden et al., *Diabetologia*, 35:116-120 (1992)). It is most likely that amylin has no direct effect on liver cells. (Pittner, R. A., *Eur. J. of Pharm.* (1997) (in press)).

In fat cells, contrary to its action in muscle, amylin
20 has no detectable actions on insulin-stimulated glucose uptake, incorporation of glucose into triglyceride, CO₂ production (Cooper et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 85:7763-7766 (1988)), epinephrine-stimulated lipolysis, or insulin-inhibition of lipolysis (Lupien and Young, "Diabetes
25 Nutrition and Metabolism - Clinical and Experimental," Vol. 6(1), pages 1318 (February 1993)). Amylin thus exerts tissue-specific effects, with direct action on skeletal muscle, and indirect (via supply of substrate) effects on liver, while adipocytes appear "blind" to the presence or
30 absence of amylin.

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It has also been reported that amylin can have marked effects on secretion of insulin. In isolated islets (Ohsawa et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 160(2):961-967 (1989)), in the perfused pancreas (Silvestre et al., 5 *Reg. Pept.*, 31:23-31 (1991)), and in the intact rat (Young et al., *Mol. Cell. Endocrinol.*, 84:R1-R5 (1992)), some experiments indicate that amylin inhibits insulin secretion. Other workers, however, have been unable to detect effects of amylin on isolated β -cells, on isolated 10 islets, or in the whole animal (see Broderick et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 177:932-938 (1991) and references therein).

Amylin or amylin agonists potently inhibit gastric emptying in rats (Young et al., *Diabetologia* 38(6):642-648 15 (1995)), dogs (Brown et al., *Diabetes* 43(Suppl 1):172A (1994)) and humans (Macdonald et al., *Diabetologia* 38(Suppl 1):A32 (abstract 118) (1995)). Gastric emptying is reportedly accelerated in amylin-deficient type 1 diabetic BB rats (Young et al., *Diabetologia*, supra; Nowak et al., 20 *J. Lab. Clin. Med.*, 123(1):110-6 (1994)) and in rats treated with the selective amylin antagonist, AC187 (Gedulin et al., *Diabetologia*, 38(Suppl 1):A244 (1995)).

Methods for reducing gastric motility and slowing gastric emptying comprising the administration of an amylin agonist 25 (including amylin) are the subject of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/118,381, filed September 7, 1993, and United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/302,069, filed September 7, 1994 (and corresponding PCT application, Publication No. WO 95/07098, published March 16, 1995).

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renal and mesenteric vasoconstrictions were unmasked,
presumably due to unopposed vasoconstrictor effects of
angiotensin II, and that this finding is similar to that
seen during coinfusion of human A-CGRP and human α -⁸⁻³⁷CGRP
5 (id. at 951).

Injected into the brain, or administered peripherally,
amylin has been reported to suppress food intake, e.g.,
Chance et al., *Brain Res.*, 539:352-354 (1991)), an action
shared with CGRP and calcitonin. The effective
10 concentrations at the cells that mediate this action are
not known. Amylin has also been reported to have effects
both on isolated osteoclasts where it caused cell
quiescence, and in vivo where it was reported to lower
plasma calcium by up to 20% in rats, in rabbits, and in
15 humans with Paget's disease (see, e.g., Zaidi et al.,
Trends in Endocrinol. and Metab., 4:255-259 (1993)). From
the available data, amylin seems to be less potent than
human calcitonin for these actions. Interestingly, it was
reported that amylin appeared to increase osteoclast cAMP
20 production but not to increase cytosolic Ca²⁺, while
calcitonin does both (Alam et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res.*
Commun., 179(1):134-139 (1991)). It was suggested, though
not established, that calcitonin may act via two receptor
types and that amylin may interact with one of these.

25 It has also been discovered that, surprisingly in view
of its previously described renal vasodilator and other
properties, amylin markedly increases plasma renin activity
in intact rats when given subcutaneously in a manner that
avoids any disturbance of blood pressure. This latter
30 point is important because lowered blood pressure is a
strong stimulus to renin release. Amylin antagonists, such

It has also been found that amylin and amylin agonists have an analgesic effect; methods for treating pain comprising the administration of an amylin or an amylin agonist with or without a narcotic analgesic are described in U.S. Application Serial No. 08/767,169, filed December 16, 1996.

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et al., *Hypertension*, 19:I-101-I-109 (1991); Gill *et al.*, *Life Sciences*, 48:703-710 (1991)).

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or agents
5 (NSAIDS) are useful analgesics, however, they have the
adverse property of inducing various gastric effects in a
large fraction of patients; such gastric effects include
gastritis, gastric ulcer, epigastric distress, nausea,
vomiting, and hemorrhage. (Woodbury, D.M. and Fingl, E.
10 Analgesic-antipyretics, anti-inflammatory agents, and drugs
employed in the therapy of gout, in *The Pharmacological*
Basis of Therapeutics (Goodman, L.S., and Gilman, A., eds.)
325-43 (1975)). Such NSAIDS include salicylate,
phenylbutazone, indomethacin, acetaminophan, phenacetin,
15 naproxen, and ibuprofen. This side effect is particularly
a problem in patients that must continually ingest NSAIDS,
such as in patients with chronic inflammatory conditions,
such as rheumatoid arthritis.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 We have discovered that, unexpectedly, amylin and
amylin agonists have gastroprotective properties and can
prevent the induction of gastritis, and thus treat or
prevent gastric injury, such as gastric ulcers, when
administered to a subject. The term "amylin" is understood
25 to include compounds such as those defined by Young and
Cooper in U.S. Patent 5,234,906, issued August 10, 1993 for
"Hyperglycemic Compositions," the contents of which are
hereby incorporated by this reference. For example, the

term includes human amylin and species variations of it, referred to as amylin and secreted from the beta cells of the pancreas. "Amylin agonist" is also a term known in the art. The term refers to compounds which mimic effects of amylin. Amylin agonists include "amylin agonist analogues" which are derivatives of amylin which act as amylin agonists. Amylin agonists may act by binding to or otherwise directly or indirectly interacting with an amylin receptor or other receptor with which amylin itself may interact to elicit biological effects of amylin. In addition to those amylin agonists described herein, other useful amylin agonists are identified in S.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/477,849, filed May 30, 1995 and corresponding PCT application Publication No. WO 93/10146, published May 27, 1993, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by this reference.

Thus, in a first aspect of the invention, a method is provided for treating or preventing gastritis or gastric ulceration in a subject, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of an amylin or an amylin agonist, wherein said amylin agonist is not a calcitonin. In one embodiment, said gastritis or gastric ulceration is associated with the administration of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

In the methods of the present invention, the analgesic properties of amylin and amylin agonists will supplement and augment the analgesic properties of NSAIDS, while the gastroprotective effects of amylin and amylin agonists will reduce the propensity of NSAIDS to cause gastritis and ulceration, whether the NSAIDS are being used to treat pain, or for any other purpose.

In other aspects of the present invention, a pharmaceutical composition is provided comprising (1) an amylin or an amylin agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said amylin agonist is not a calcitonin, and (2) a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and dose.

Preferably, said non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of salicylate, phenacetin, naproxen, phenylbutazone, indomethacin, and ibuprofen.

5 In preferred embodiments of the present invention, the amylin agonist is ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin. [Seq. ID. NO. 1]

a Administration of an amylin or an amylin agonist may be by various routes, including subcutaneously, or intramuscularly, or through non-injectable routes of parenteral administration, such as through oral, nasal, pulmonary, transdermal, or buccal routes. Such non-injectable routes of parenteral administration are preferred because of the high potency of the amylin or amylin agonist. Oral administration is especially preferred for orally-active amylin agonists.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be further described with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 shows the effect of subcutaneous doses of rat amylin to reduce the gastric injury induced by gavage of ethanol into rats.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Amylin agonists may be identified by activity in the gastroprotection assays described below. These compounds may also be assessed by receptor binding and gastric emptying assays described below.

The nomenclature of various amylin agonist compounds useful in the present invention can be used to indicate both the peptide that the sequence is based on and the

modifications made to any basic peptide amylin sequence, such as human amylin. An amino acid preceded by a superscript number indicates that the named amino acid replaces the amino acid normally present at the amino acid position of the superscript in the basic amino acid sequence. For example, "¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin" refers to a peptide based on the sequence of "h-amylin" or "human-amylin" having the following substitutions: Arg replacing His at residue 18, Pro replacing Ala at residue 25 and Pro replacing Ser at residue 28. The term "des-¹Lys-h-amylin" refers to a peptide based on the sequence of human amylin, with the first, or N-terminal, amino acid deleted.

Amylin agonists include the following amylin agonist analogues:

i) An agonist analogue of amylin having the amino acid sequence:

¹A₁-X-Asn-Thr-⁵Ala-Thr-Y-Ala-Thr-¹⁰Gln-Arg-Leu-B₁-Asn-¹⁵Phe-Leu-C₁-D₁-E₁-²⁰F₁-G₁-Asn-H₁-Gly-²⁵Pro-I₁-Leu-Pro-J₁-³⁰Thr-K₁-Val-Gly-Ser-³⁵Asn-Thr-Tyr-Z

wherein

A₁ is Lys, Ala, Ser or hydrogen;

B₁ is Ala, Ser or Thr;

C₁ is Val, Leu or Ile;

D₁ is His or Arg;

E₁ is Ser or Thr;

F₁ is Ser, Thr, Gln or Asn;

G₁ is Asn, Gln or His;

H₁ is Phe, Leu or Tyr;

I₁ is Ile, Val, Ala or Leu;

J₁ is Ser, Pro or Thr;

K₁ is Asn, Asp or Gln;

X and Y are independently selected residues having side chains which are chemically bonded to each other to form an intramolecular linkage, wherein said intramolecular linkage comprises a disulfide bond, a lactam or a thioether linkage; and Z is amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy; and provided that when A₁ is Lys, B₁ is Ala, C₁ is Val, D₁ is Arg, E₁ is Ser, F₁ is Ser, G₁ is Asn, H₁ is Leu, I₁ is Val, J₁ is Pro, and K₁ is Asn; then one or more of A₁ to K₁ is a D-amino acid and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy.

ii) An agonist analogue of amylin having the amino acid sequence:

¹A₁-X-Asn-Thr-⁵Ala-Thr-Y-Ala-Thr-¹⁰Gln-Arg-Leu-B₁-Asn-¹⁵Phe-Leu-C₁-D₁-E₁-²⁰F₁-G₁-Asn-H₁-Gly-²⁵Pro-I₁-Leu-J₁-Pro-³⁰Thr-K₁-Val-Gly-Ser-³⁵Asn-Thr-Tyr-Z

wherein

A₁ is Lys, Ala, Ser or hydrogen;
B₁ is Ala, Ser or Thr;
C₁ is Val, Leu or Ile;
D₁ is His or Arg;
E₁ is Ser or Thr;
F₁ is Ser, Thr, Gln or Asn;
G₁ is Asn, Gln or His;
H₁ is Phe, Leu or Tyr;
I₁ is Ile, Val, Ala or Leu;
J₁ is Ser, Pro, Leu, Ile or Thr;
K₁ is Asn, Asp or Gln;

X and Y are independently selected residues having side chains which are chemically bonded to each other to form an intramolecular linkage, wherein said intramolecular linkage comprises a disulfide bond, a lactam or a thioether

5 linkage; and Z is amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy; and provided that when

(a) A₁ is Lys, B₁ is Ala, C₁ is Val, D₁ is Arg, E₁ is Ser, F₁ is Ser, G₁ is Asn, H₁ is Leu, I₁ is Val, J₁ is Pro and K₁ is Asn; or

(b) A₁ is Lys, B₁ is Ala, C₁ is Val, D₁ is His, E₁ is Ser, F₁ is Asn, G₁ is Asn, H₁ is Leu, I₁ is Val, J₁ is Ser and K₁ is Asn;

15 then one or more of A₁ to K₁ is a D-amino acid and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy.

20 iii) An agonist analogue of amylin having the amino acid sequence:

¹A₁-X-Asn-Thr-⁵Ala-Thr-Y-Ala-Thr-¹⁰Gln-Arg-Leu-B₁-Asn-¹⁵Phe-Leu-C₁-D₁-E₁-²⁰F₁-G₁-Asn-H₁-Gly-²⁵I₁-J₁-Leu-Pro-Pro-³⁰Thr-K₁-Val-Gly-Ser-³⁵Asn-Thr-Tyr-Z

wherein

25 A₁ is Lys, Ala, Ser or hydrogen;

B₁ is Ala, Ser or Thr;

C₁ is Val, Leu or Ile;

D₁ is His or Arg;

E₁ is Ser or Thr;

30 F₁ is Ser, Thr, Gln or Asn;

G₁ is Asn, Gln or His;

H₁ is Phe, Leu or Tyr;

I₁ is Ala or Pro;

J₁ is Ile, Val, Ala or Leu;

K₁ is Asn, Asp or Gln; X and Y are independently

5 selected residues having side chains which are chemically bonded to each other to form an intramolecular linkage, wherein said intramolecular linkage comprises a disulfide bond, a lactam or a thioether linkage; and Z is amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy; and provided
10 that when A₁ is Lys, B₁ is Ala, C₁ is Val, D₁ is Arg, E₁ is Ser, F₁ is Ser, G₁ is Asn, H₁ is Leu, I₁ is Pro, J₁ is Val and K₁ is Asn; then one or more of A₁ to K₁ is a D-amino acid and Z is selected from the group consisting of
15 alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy.

iv) An agonist analogue of amylin having the amino acid sequence:

¹A₁-X-Asn-Thr-⁵Ala-Thr-Y-Ala-Thr-¹⁰Gln-Arg-Leu-
20 B₁-Asn-¹⁵Phe-Leu-C₁-D₁-E₁-²⁰F₁-G₁-Asn-H₁-Gly-²⁵Pro-I₁-
Leu-Pro-Pro-³⁰Thr-J₁-Val-Gly-Ser-³⁵Asn-Thr-Tyr-Z

wherein

A₁ is Lys, Ala, Ser or hydrogen;

B₁ is Ala, Ser or Thr;

25 C₁ is Val, Leu or Ile;

D₁ is His or Arg;

E₁ is Ser or Thr;

F₁ is Ser, Thr, Gln or Asn;

G₁ is Asn, Gln or His;

30 H₁ is Phe, Leu or Tyr;

I₁ is Ile, Val, Ala or Leu;

J₁ is Asn, Asp or Gln; X and Y are independently selected residues having side chains which are chemically bonded to each other to form an intramolecular linkage wherein said intramolecular linkage comprises a disulfide
5 bond, a lactam or a thioether linkage; and Z is amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy; and provided that when A₁ is Lys, B₁ is Ala, C₁ is Val, D₁ is Arg, E₁ is Ser, F₁ is Ser, G₁ is Asn, H₁ is Leu, I₁ is Val and J₁ is
10 Asn; then one or more of A₁ to K₁ is a D-amino acid and Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, alkyloxy, aryloxy or aralkyloxy.

Preferred amylin agonist compounds, des-¹Lys-h-amylin
15 ²⁸Pro-h-amylin, ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, and des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, all show amylin activity in vivo in treated test animals. In addition to having activities characteristic of amylin, certain preferred compounds have also been found to possess more desirable
20 solubility and stability characteristics when compared to human amylin. These preferred compounds include ²⁵Pro²⁶Val^{28,29}Pro-h-amylin, ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin (also referred to herein as "AC-0137"), and ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin.

The methods of the present invention employ an amylin
25 or an amylin agonist, for example, amylin receptor agonists such as ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, ^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, ²⁹Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, and ²⁵Pro²⁶Val^{28,29}Pro-h-amylin. Examples of other suitable
30 amylin agonists include:

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agonist analogues, are disclosed, and methods for making and using amylin agonists are further specified, in commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/477,849, entitled "Novel Amylin Agonist Peptides and Uses Therefor" filed May 30, 1995 and corresponding PCT application Publication No. WO 93/10146, published May 27, 1993, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by this reference.

The activity of amylin agonists may be evaluated using certain biological assays described herein. The receptor
30 binding assay can identify both candidate amylin agonists and antagonists and can be used to evaluate binding, while

the rat gastric-emptying assay can be used to distinguish between amylin agonists and antagonists. Preferably, agonist compounds exhibit activity in the receptor binding assay on the order of less than about 1 to 5 nM, preferably less than about 1 nM and more preferably less than about 50 pM. In the in vivo rat gastric emptying assay these compounds preferably show ED₅₀ values on the order of less than about 100 to 1000 µg/rat.

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The receptor binding assay is described in United States Patent No. 5,264,372, issued November 23, 1993, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The receptor binding assay is a competition assay which measures the ability of compounds to bind specifically to membrane-bound amylin receptors. A preferred source of the membrane preparations used in the assay is the basal forebrain which comprises membranes from the nucleus accumbens and surrounding regions. Compounds being assayed compete for binding to these receptor preparations with ¹²⁵I Bolton Hunter rat amylin. Competition curves, wherein the amount bound (B) is plotted as a function of the log of the concentration of ligand are analyzed by computer, using analyses by nonlinear regression to a 4-parameter logistic equation (Inplot program; GraphPAD Software, San Diego, California) or the ALLFIT program of DeLean et. al. (ALLFIT, Version 2.7 (NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892)). Munson, P. and Rodbard, D., Anal. Biochem. 107:220-239 (1980).

Amylins or amylin agonists can be identified, evaluated, or screened by their effects on gastric emptying using the methods described in U.S. Applications Serial No. 08/118,381, filed September 7, 1993, and U.S. Application Serial No. 08/302,069, filed September 7, 1994

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(corresponding to PCT Application, Publication No. WO 95/07098), the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference, or other art-known or equivalent methods for determining gastric motility. One such method for use in
5 identifying or evaluating the ability of a compound to slow gastric motility, comprises: (a) bringing together a test sample and a test system, said test sample comprising one or more test compounds, and said test system comprising a system for evaluating gastric motility, said system being
10 characterized in that it exhibits, for example, elevated plasma label in response to the intragastric introduction to said system of that label; and, (b) determining the presence or amount of a rise in plasma label in said system. Positive and/or negative controls may be used as
15 well. Optionally, a predetermined amount of amylin antagonist (e.g., ⁸⁻³²salmon calcitonin) may be added to the test system. *See ID No. 221*

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Amylin agonists such as those described above are prepared using standard solid-phase peptide synthesis
20 techniques and preferably an automated or semiautomated peptide synthesizer. Typically, an α -N-carbamoyl protected amino acid and an amino acid attached to the growing peptide chain on a resin are coupled at room temperature in an inert solvent such as dimethylformamide, N-
25 methylpyrrolidinone or methylene chloride in the presence of coupling agents such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole in the presence of a base such as diisopropylethylamine. The α -N-carbamoyl protecting group is removed from the resulting peptide-resin using a reagent
30 such as trifluoroacetic acid or piperidine, and the coupling reaction repeated with the next desired N-

protected amino acid to be added to the peptide chain. Suitable N-protecting groups are well known in the art, with t-butyloxycarbonyl (tBoc) and fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) being preferred herein.

5 The solvents, amino acid derivatives and 4-methylbenzhydryl-amine resin used in the peptide synthesizer are purchased from Applied Biosystems Inc. (Foster City, CA), unless otherwise indicated. The side-chain protected amino acids are purchased from Applied
10 Biosystems, Inc. and include the following: Boc-Arg(Mts), Fmoc-Arg(Pmc), Boc-Thr(Bzl), Fmoc-Thr(t-Bu), Boc-Ser(Bzl), Fmoc-Ser(t-Bu), Boc-Tyr(BrZ), Fmoc-Tyr(t-Bu), Boc-Lys(Cl-Z), Fmoc-Lys(Boc), Boc-Glu(Bzl), Fmoc-Glu(t-Bu), Fmoc-His(Trt), Fmoc-Asn(Trt), and Fmoc-Gln(Trt). Boc-His(BOM) is
15 purchased from Applied Biosystems, Inc. or Bachem Inc. (Torrance, CA). Anisole, methylsulfide, phenol, ethanedithiol, and thioanisole are obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, WI). Air Products and Chemicals (Allentown, PA) supplies HF. Ethyl ether, acetic
20 acid and methanol are purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA).

Solid phase peptide synthesis is carried out with an automatic peptide synthesizer (Model 430A, Applied Biosystems Inc., Foster City, CA) using the NMP/HOBt
25 (Option 1) system and TboC or Fmoc chemistry (see, Applied Biosystems User's Manual for the ABI 430A Peptide Synthesizer, Version 1.3B July 1, 1988, section 6, pp. 49-70, Applied Biosystems, Inc., Foster City, CA) with capping. Boc-peptide-resins are cleaved with HF (-5°C to
30 0°C, 1 hour). The peptide is extracted from the resin with alternating water and acetic acid, and the filtrates are

lyophilized. The Fmoc-peptide resins are cleaved according to standard methods (Introduction to Cleavage Techniques, Applied Biosystems, Inc., 1990, pp. 6-12). Some peptides are also assembled using an Advanced Chem Tech Synthesizer
5 (Model MPS 350, Louisville, Kentucky). Peptides are purified by RP-HPLC (preparative and analytical) using a Waters Delta Prep 3000 system. A C4, C8 or C18 preparative column (10 μ , 2.2 x 25 cm; Vydac, Hesperia, CA) is used to isolate peptides, and purity is determined using a C4, C8
10 or C18 analytical column (5 μ , 0.46 x 25 cm; Vydac). Solvents (A=0.1% TFA/water and B=0.1% TFA/CH₃CN) are delivered to the analytical column at a flowrate of 1.0 ml/min and to the preparative column at 15 ml/min. Amino acid analyses are performed on the Waters Pico Tag system
15 and processed using the Maxima program. The peptides are hydrolyzed by vapor-phase acid hydrolysis (115°C, 20-24 h). Hydrolysates are derivatized and analyzed by standard methods (Cohen, S.A., Meys, M., and Tarrin, T.L. (1989), The Pico Tag Method: A Manual of Advanced Techniques for
20 Amino Acid Analysis, pp. 11-52, Millipore Corporation, Milford, MA). Fast atom bombardment analysis is carried out by M-Scan, Incorporated (West Chester, PA). Mass calibration is performed using cesium iodide or cesium iodide/glycerol. Plasma desorption ionization analysis
25 using time of flight detection is carried out on an Applied Biosystems Bio-Ion 20 mass spectrometer.

Peptide compounds useful in the claimed methods may also be prepared using recombinant DNA techniques, using methods now known in the art. See, e.g., Sambrook et al.,
30 Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2d Ed., Cold Spring Harbor (1989).

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The compounds referenced above form salts with various inorganic and organic acids and bases. Such salts include salts prepared with organic and inorganic acids, for example, HCl, HBr, H₂SO₄, H₃PO₄, trifluoroacetic acid, 5 acetic acid, formic acid, methanesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid and camphorsulfonic acid. Salts prepared with bases include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts, e.g. sodium and potassium salts, and alkali earth salts, e.g. calcium and 10 magnesium salts. Acetate, hydrochloride, and trifluoroacetate salts are preferred. The salts may be formed by conventional means, as by reacting the free acid or base forms of the product with one or more equivalents of the appropriate base or acid in a solvent or medium in 15 which the salt is insoluble, or in a solvent such as water which is then removed in vacuo or by freeze-drying or by exchanging the ions of an existing salt for another ion on a suitable ion exchange resin.

Compositions useful in the invention may conveniently 20 be provided in the form of formulations suitable for parenteral (including, intramuscular and subcutaneous) or nasal or transdermal, and/or suitably encapsulated or otherwise prepared by another known methods for oral administration. A suitable administration format may best 25 be determined by a medical practitioner for each patient individually. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and their formulation are described in standard formulation treatises, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences by E.W. Martin. See also Wang, Y.J. and Hanson, 30 M.A. "Parenteral Formulations of Proteins and Peptides: Stability and Stabilizers," Journal of Parenteral Science

and Technology, Technical Report No. 10, Supp. 42:2S
(1988). Compounds useful in the invention can be provided
as parenteral compositions for injection or infusion.
Preferably, they are dissolved in an aqueous carrier, for
5 example, in an isotonic buffer solution at a pH of about
4.3 to 7.4. These compositions may be sterilized by
conventional sterilization techniques, or may be sterile
filtered. The compositions may contain pharmaceutically
acceptable auxiliary substances as required to stabilize
10 the formulation, such as pH buffering agents. Useful
buffers include for example, sodium acetate/acetic acid
buffers. A form of repository or "depot" slow release
preparation may be used so that therapeutically effective
amounts of the preparation are delivered into the
15 bloodstream over many hours or days following transdermal
injection or delivery.

B Preferably, these parenteral dosage forms are prepared
according to the U.S. Provisional Patent Application, filed
January 7, 1997, entitled "Parenteral, Liquid Formulations
20 for Amylin Agonist Peptides," and include approximately
0.01 to 0.2 w/v%, respectively, of an amylin and/or an
amylin agonist in an aqueous system along with
approximately 0.02 to 0.5 w/v% of an acetate, phosphate,
citrate or glutamate buffer to obtain a pH of the final
25 composition of approximately 3.0 to 6.0 (more preferably
3.0 to 5.5), as well as approximately 1.0 to 10 w/v% of a
carbohydrate or polyhydric alcohol stabilizer in an aqueous
continuous phase. Approximately 0.005 to 1.0 w/v% of an
antimicrobial preservative selected from the group
30 consisting of m-cresol, benzyl alcohol, methyl, ethyl,
propyl and butyl parabens and phenol is also present in the

preferred formulation of product designed to allow the patient to withdraw multiple doses. A sufficient amount of water for injection is used to obtain the desired concentration of solution. Sodium chloride, as well as

5 other excipients, may also be present, if desired. Such excipients, however, must maintain the overall stability of the amylin, or an amylin agonist. Most preferably, in the amylin and/or amylin agonist formulation for parenteral administration, the polyhydric alcohol is mannitol, the

10 buffer is an acetate buffer, the preservative is approximately 0.1 to 0.3 w/v of m-cresol, and the pH is approximately 3.7 to 4.3.

The desired isotonicity may be accomplished using sodium chloride or other pharmaceutically acceptable agents

15 such as dextrose, boric acid, sodium tartrate, propylene glycol, polyols (such as mannitol and sorbitol), or other inorganic or organic solutes. Sodium chloride is preferred particularly for buffers containing sodium ions.

If desired, solutions of the above compositions may be

20 thickened with a thickening agent such as methyl cellulose. They may be prepared in emulsified form, either water in oil or oil in water. Any of a wide variety of pharmaceutically acceptable emulsifying agents may be employed including, for example, acacia powder, a non-ionic

25 surfactant (such as a Tween), or an ionic surfactant (such as alkali polyether alcohol sulfates or sulfonates, e.g., a Triton).

Compositions useful in the invention are prepared by mixing the ingredients following generally accepted

30 procedures. For example, the selected components may be simply mixed in a blender or other standard device to

produce a concentrated mixture which may then be adjusted to the final concentration and viscosity by the addition of water or thickening agent and possibly a buffer to control pH or an additional solute to control tonicity.

5 For use by the physician, the compositions will be provided in dosage unit form containing an amount of an amylin or amylin agonist, for example, an amylin agonist with or without an NSAID which will be effective in one or multiple doses to control pain, inflammation, body
10 temperature, blood coagulability, or other targeted biological response at the selected level. Therapeutically effective amounts of an amylin or amylin agonist are those that will alleviate the targeted symptom, or achieve the desired level of control. As will be recognized by those
15 in the field, an effective amount of therapeutic agent will vary with many factors including the age and weight of the patient, the patient's physical condition, the action to be obtained and other factors.

The therapeutically effective daily dose of amylin or
20 amylin agonist, for the treatment of gastritis and ulcers including h-amylin, $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, des- $^1\text{Lys}^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, des- $^1\text{Lys}^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, $^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, des- $^1\text{Lys}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, and $^{25}\text{Pro}^{26}\text{Val}^{28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$, will
25 typically be in the range of 0.01 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ to about 10 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$, preferably between about 0.05 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ to about 6.0 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$, more preferably between about 1-6 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ and even more preferably between about 0.5 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ to about 4.0 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ administered in single or
30 divided doses.

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The effective daily dose of amylin or amylin agonist in combination with an NSAID to relieve pain, thereby achieving a synergistic effect, including h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg-^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, and ²⁵Pro²⁶Val^{28,29}Pro-h-amylin, will typically be in the range of 0.01 µg/kg/day to about 10 µg/kg/day, preferably between about 0.05 µg/kg/day to about 6.0 µg/kg/day more preferably between about 1-6 µg/kg/day and even more preferably between about 0.5 µg/kg/day to about 4.0 µg/kg/day administered in single or divided doses. For these indications, the effective daily dose of the NSAID would depend on the agent used, and is comparable to the doses when NSAIDs are used alone. For example, daily doses for salicylate (aspirin) are 150mg - 3.5g per day, for phenylbutazone 100mg - 600 mg per day, for indomethacin 50mg - 200mg per day, and for acetaminophen 3g - 6g per day.

The effective daily dose of amylin or amylin agonist to reduce the adverse gastric effects of the administration of an NSAID, including h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin, ¹⁸Arg^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys¹⁸Arg-^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, des-¹Lys^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin, and ²⁵Pro²⁶Val^{28,29}Pro-h-amylin, will typically be in the range of 0.01 µg/kg/day to about 10 µg/kg/day, preferably between about 0.05 µg/kg/day to about 6.0 µg/kg/day more preferably between about 1-6 µg/kg/day and even more preferably between about 0.5 µg/kg/day to about 4.0 µg/kg/day administered in single or

divided doses. For these indications, the effective daily dose of the NSAID would depend on the agent used, and is comparable to the doses when NSAIDs are used alone. For example, daily doses for salicylate (aspirin) are 150mg - 3.5g per day, for phenylbutazone 100mg - 600mg per day, for indomethacin 50mg - 200mg per day, and for acetaminophen 3g - 6g per day.

The exact dose to be administered for each indication is determined by the attending clinician and is dependent upon where the particular compound lies within the above quoted range, as well as upon the age, weight and condition of the individual. Those of skill in the art will recognize that other non-daily doses may also be administered. Administration should begin at the first sign of symptoms in the case of gastritis, ulcers or pain, or at the time it is determined that the subject should begin NSAID therapy. Administration may be by injection, preferably subcutaneous or intramuscular. Administration may also be nasally or transdermally. Orally active compounds may be taken orally, however dosages should be adjusted based on their potencies and bioavailabilities, as appropriate.

The following Examples are illustrative, but not limiting of the methods of the present invention. Other suitable amylin and amylin agonists that may be adapted for use in the claimed methods are also appropriate and are within the spirit and scope of the invention.

EXAMPLE 1Gastroprotective Properties of Amylin

The gastroprotective properties of amylin in an animal model for gastritis -- the ethanol gavaged rat -- are described in this example.

The effect of amylin on the induction of experimental mucosal damage in rats by gavage of 1 ml absolute ethanol was examined. Mucosal damage was scored between 0 (no damage) and 5 (100% of stomach covered by hyperemia and ulceration) by investigators blinded to the treatment. Rat amylin in saline was injected subcutaneously into fasted conscious male Harlan Sprague Dawley rats at doses of 0, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3 or 10 μg (n=12, 5, 5, 5, 9, 9, 5, 6 respectively) 5 min before gavage. Mucosal damage, calculated as percent of scores in the saline-treated controls were, with the above rising subcutaneous doses, respectively: $100.0 \pm 8.3\%$, $95.3 \pm 15.2\%$, $76.6 \pm 13.8\%$, $70.1 \pm 10.7\%^*$, $33.9 \pm 7.7\%^{**}$, $59.6 \pm 5.8\%^{**}$, $35.6 \pm 11.5\%^{**}$, $32.9 \pm 8.3\%^{**}$ (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.001$ vs saline control). That is, amylin reduced the injury score by up to 67%, as observed with the 10 μg dose. The ED_{50} for the gastroprotective effect of amylin in this experimental system was $0.036 \mu\text{g}/\text{rat} \pm 0.4$ log units. The 50% gastroprotective dose of rat amylin ($0.036 \mu\text{g}/\text{rat}$) was predicted to increase circulating amylin concentrations by 1.8 ± 0.4 pM. This prediction was obtained by applying the published relationship between injected subcutaneous dose and peak plasma concentration in rats. Young, A. A. *et al.*, *Drug Devel. Res.* 37:231-48 (1996). Changes in plasma concentration of amylin of 1.8pM is within the range of fluctuations reported to occur in normal rodents,

indicating that endogenous circulating amylin is likely to exert a tonic gastroprotective effect. Mimicking this physiological effect is unlikely to result in unwanted side effects, as is often the case with administration of unphysiological xenobiotics. The absence of side effects enhances the utility of amylin agonists used for the purposes and in the manner specified herein.

EXAMPLE 2

Time Course of Amylin or Amylin Agonist Analgesic Action

Male Swiss Webster mice (NIH/Sw) obtained from Harlan (Madison, Wisconsin) and weighing 20-35 g are group housed with free access to food and water and maintained in a stable environment (12:12 light:dark cycle; $23 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$). All animals are habituated to the test room for at least one day prior to any experimentation, and are tested once between 07:30 and 14:00.

All drugs are dissolved in physiological saline, and given in a dose volume 10 ml/kg body weight.

The mouse writhing assay procedure used is a modification of a procedure disclosed in Hendershot and Forsaith, *J. Pharmacol. Expt. Therap.*, 125:237-240 (1959). Each mouse is allowed to habituate to the observation box for at least 15 minutes prior to testing. Each mouse is given an intraperitoneal injection of a 2% acetic acid solution to produce a writhing reaction, characterized by a wave of contraction of the abdominal musculature followed by the extension of the hind limbs. The number of writhes per animal is counted during a 10-minute interval starting 5 minutes after acetic acid injection.

0.1 mg/kg of amylin or amylin agonist is administered

subcutaneously (sc) or intraperitoneally (ip) at 5, 15, 30 and 60 minutes prior to acetic acid injection in mice. Saline injections may be used as a negative control. An NSAID, such as salicylate may be used as a positive control.

To determine the time course of an amylin or amylin agonist action on visceral pain, the number of writhes per 10 minute period beginning 5 minutes after acetic acid injection are determined for each administration of amylin or amylin agonist and compared to saline-treated animals. To determine the enhancement of NSAID activity in relieving pain, time courses of amylin or amylin agonist administered in conjunction with an NSAID, and an NSAID administered alone, are compared.

EXAMPLE 3

Dose Response of Amylin Action

The same experimental procedures used in the experiments described in Example 2 are used to determine the dose response of an amylin or amylin agonist in relieving pain, either alone or in conjunction with an NSAID. Subcutaneous and intraperitoneal injections of amylin or amylin agonist (0.001, 0.003, 0.01, 0.1, 1.0 and 10.0 mg/kg) are given 30 minutes prior to acetic acid injection. Saline may be used as a negative control. An NSAID such as salicylate may be used as a positive control.

EXAMPLE 4Isobologram Analysis of Interaction of Analgesic Effects of Amylin and NSAIDS

To further characterize the interaction between amylin
5 and an NSAID, the results of the writhing studies may be
graphed in isobolograms according to the method of
Berenbaum, "The expected effect of a combination of agents:
the general solution," J. Theor. Biol. 114:413 (1985). The
isobologram is a quantitative method for measuring
10 interactions between dosages of drugs that are
equieffective in relationship to a common pharmacological
endpoint to indicate synergy, additive effect or
antagonism. In this instance, the writhing test may be
used to estimate a common level of analgesic dose-ratio
15 combination. In an isobologram, areas of dose additional,
synergism and antagonism are clearly defined by reference
to a theoretical straight (addition) line connecting the
points on each axis. According to the isobologram theory,
any points falling under the addition line represent
20 enhanced analgesic activity and any points located above
the line represent diminished analgesic activity.

EXAMPLE 5Preparation of ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-Amylin [Seq. ID. No. 1]

25 Solid phase synthesis of ^{25,28,29}Pro-h-amylin using
methylbenzhydrylamine anchor-bond resin and N^a-Boc/benzyl-
side chain protection was carried out by standard peptide
synthesis methods. The ^{2,7}-[disulfide]amylin-MBHA-resin was
obtained by treatment of Ac^m-protected cysteines with
30 thallium (III) trifluoroacetate in trifluoroacetic acid.

After cyclization was achieved the resin and side chain protecting groups were cleaved with liquid HF in the presence of dimethylsulfide and anisole. The $^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$ was purified by preparative reversed-phase HPLC.

- 5 The peptide was found to be homogeneous by analytical HPLC and capillary electrophoresis and the structure confirmed by amino acid analysis and sequence analysis. The product gave the desired mass ion. FAB mass spec: $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+=3,949$.

EXAMPLE 6

Preparation of $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-Amylin}$

[See ID No. 7]

- 10 Solid phase synthesis of $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$ using methylbenzhydrylamine anchor-bond resin and $\text{N}^{\alpha}\text{-Boc/benzyl-}$ side chain protection was carried out by standard peptide synthesis methods. The $^{2,7}\text{-[disulfide]amylin-MBHA-resin}$ was
- 15 obtained by treatment of Acn-protected cysteines with thallium (III) trifluoroacetate in trifluoroacetic acid. After cyclization was achieved the resin and side chain protecting groups were cleaved with liquid HF in the presence of dimethylsulfide and anisole. The $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28,29}\text{Pro-}$
- 20 h-amylin was purified by preparative reversed-phase HPLC. The peptide was found to be homogeneous by analytical HPLC and capillary electrophoresis and the structure confirmed by amino acid analysis and sequence analysis. The product gave the desired mass ion. FAB mass spec: $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+=3,971$.

EXAMPLE 7

Preparation of $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28}\text{Pro-h-Amylin}$

[See ID No. 4]

25 Solid phase synthesis of $^{18}\text{Arg}^{25,28}\text{Pro-h-amylin}$ using methylbenzhydrylamine anchor-bond resin and $\text{N}^{\alpha}\text{-Boc/benzyl-}$ side chain protection was carried out by standard peptide

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synthesis methods. The ^{2,7}-[disulfide]amylin-MBHA-resin was obtained by treatment of Acm-protected cysteines with thallium (III) trifluoroacetate in trifluoroacetic acid. After cyclization was achieved the resin and side chain
5 protecting groups were cleaved with liquid HF in the presence of dimethylsulfide and anisole. The ¹⁸Arg^{25,28}Pro-h-amylin was purified by preparative reversed-phase HPLC. The peptide was found to be homogeneous by analytical HPLC and capillary electrophoresis and the structure confirmed
10 by amino acid analysis and sequence analysis. The product gave the desired mass ion. FAB mass spec: (M+H)⁺=3,959.

EXAMPLE 8

Receptor Binding Assay

Evaluation of the binding of compounds to amylin
15 receptors was carried out as follows. ¹²⁵I-rat amylin (Bolton-Hunter labeled at the N-terminal lysine) was purchased from Amersham Corporation (Arlington Heights, IL). Specific activities at time of use ranged from 1950 to 2000 Ci/mmol. Unlabeled peptides were obtained from
20 BACHEM Inc. (Torrance, CA) and Peninsula Laboratories (Belmont, CA).

Male Sprague-Dawley rats (200-250) grams were sacrificed by decapitation. Brains were removed to cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). From the ventral surface,
25 cuts were made rostral to the hypothalamus, bounded laterally by the olfactory tracts and extending at a 45° angle medially from these tracts. This basal forebrain tissue, containing the nucleus accumbens and surrounding regions, was weighed and homogenized in ice-cold 20 mM
30 HEPES buffer (20 mM HEPES acid, pH adjusted to 7.4 with

NaOH at 23°C). Membranes were washed three times in fresh buffer by centrifugation for 15 minutes at 48,000 x g. The final membrane pellet was resuspended in 20 mM HEPES buffer containing 0.2 mM phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride (PMSF).

- 5 To measure ^{125}I -amylin binding, membranes from 4 mg original wet weight of tissue were incubated with ^{125}I -amylin at 12-16 pM in 20 mM HEPES buffer containing 0.5 mg/ml bacitracin, 0.5 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, and 0.2 mM PMSF. Solutions were incubated for 60 minutes at 23°C.
- 10 Incubations were terminated by filtration through GF/B glass fiber filters (Whatman Inc., Clifton, NJ) which had been presoaked for 4 hours in 0.3% polyethyleneimine in order to reduce nonspecific binding of radiolabeled peptides. Filters were washed immediately before
- 15 filtration with 5 ml cold PBS, and immediately after filtration with 15 ml cold PBS. Filters were removed and radioactivity assessed in a gamma-counter at a counting efficiency of 77%. Competition curves were generated by measuring binding in the presence of 10^{-12} to 10^{-6} M
- 20 unlabeled test compound and were analyzed by nonlinear regression using a 4-parameter logistic equation (Inplot program; GraphPAD Software, San Diego).

In this assay, purified human amylin binds to its receptor at a measured IC_{50} of about 50 pM. Results for
25 test compounds are set forth in Table I, showing that each of the compounds has significant receptor binding activity.

TABLE I

		EC ₅₀ (nM)	Receptor Binding Assay IC ₅₀ (pM)
a	5	1) ²⁸ Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 3]	15.0
a		2) ²⁵ Pro ²⁶ Val ^{28,29} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 6]	18.0
a		3) ^{2,7} Cyclo-[² Asp, ⁷ Lys]-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 28]	310.0
a		4) ²⁻³⁷ h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 30]	236.0
a		5) ¹ Ala-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 31]	148.0
a	10	6) ¹ Ser-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 32]	33.0
a		7) ²⁹ Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 33]	64.0
a		8) ^{25,28} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 34]	26.0
a		9) des- ¹ Lys ^{25,28} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 35]	85.0
a		10) ¹⁸ Arg ^{25,28} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 4]	32.0
a	15	11) des- ¹ Lys ¹⁸ Arg ^{25,28} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 5]	82.0
a		12) ¹⁸ Arg ^{25,28,29} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 7]	21.0
a		13) des- ¹ Lys ¹⁸ Arg ^{25,28,29} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 8]	21.0
a		14) ^{25,28,29} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 1]	10.0
a		15) des- ¹ Lys ^{25,28,29} Pro-h-Amylin [Ser. ID NO. 9]	14.0

20

EXAMPLE 9PHENOL RED GASTRIC EMPTYING ASSAY

Gastric emptying was measured using a modification (Plourde et al., Life Sci. 53:857-862 (1993)) of the original method of Scarpignato et al. (Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. Ther. 246:286-295 (1980)). Briefly, conscious rats received by gavage. 1.5 mL of an acoloric gel containing 1.5% methyl cellulose (M-0262, Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) and 0.05% phenol red indicator. Twenty minutes after gavage, rats were anesthetized using 5% halothane, the stomach exposed and clamped at the pyloric

and lower esophageal sphincters using artery forceps, removed and opened into an alkaline solution which was made up to a fixed volume. Stomach content was derived from the intensity of the phenol red in the alkaline solution, measured by absorbance at a wavelength of 560 nm. In most experiments, the stomach was clear. In other experiments, particulate gastric contents were centrifuged to clear the solution for absorbance measurements. Where the diluted gastric contents remained turbid, the spectroscopic absorbance due to phenol red was derived as the difference between that present in alkaline vs acetified diluent. In separate experiments on 7 rats, the stomach and small intestine were both excised and opened into an alkaline solution. The quantity of phenol red that could be recovered from the upper gastrointestinal tract within 29 minutes of gavage was $89 \pm 4\%$; dye which appeared to bind irrecoverably to the gut luminal surface may have accounted for the balance. To compensate for this small loss, percent of stomach contents remaining after 20 minutes were expressed as a fraction of the gastric contents recovered from control rats sacrificed immediately after gavage in the same experiment. Percent gastric emptying contents remaining = (absorbance at 20 min)/(absorbance at 0 min). Dose response curves for gastric emptying were fitted to a 4-parameter logistic model using a least-squares iterative routine (ALLFIT, v2.7, NIH, Bethesda, MD) to derive ED_{50} s. Since ED_{50} is log-normally distributed, it is expressed \pm standard error of the logarithm. Pairwise comparisons were performed using one-way analysis of variance and the Student-Newman-Keuls multiple comparisons test (Instat

v2.0, GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA) using $P < 0.05$ as the level of significance.

In dose response studies, rat amylin (Bachem, Torrance, CA) dissolved in 0.15M saline, was administered as a 0.1 mL subcutaneous bolus in doses of 0, 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 or 100 μg 5 minutes before gavage in Harlan Sprague Dawley (non-diabetic) rats fasted 20 hours and diabetic BB rats fasted 6 hours. When subcutaneous amylin injections were given 5 minutes before gavage with phenol red indicator, there was a dose-dependent suppression of gastric emptying (data not shown). Suppression of gastric emptying was complete in normal HSD rats administered 1 μg of amylin, and in diabetic rats administered 10 μg ($P = 0.22, 0.14$). The ED_{50} for inhibition of gastric emptying in normal rats was 0.43 μg (0.60 nmol/kg) ± 0.19 log units, and was 2.2 μ (2.3 nmol/kg) ± 0.18 log units in diabetic rats.

EXAMPLE 10

TRITIATED GLUCOSE GASTRIC EMPTYING ASSAY

Conscious, non-fasted, Harlan Sprague Dawley rats were restrained by the tail, the tip of which was anesthetized using 2% lidocaine. Tritium in plasma separated from tail blood collected 0, 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 minutes after gavage was detected in a beta counter. Rats were injected subcutaneously with 0.1 mL saline containing 0, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 10 or 100 μg of rat amylin 1 minute before gavage ($n=8,7,5,5,5$, respectively). After gavage of saline pre-injected rats with tritiated glucose, plasma tritium increased rapidly ($t_{1/2}$ of about 8 minutes) to an asymptote that slowly declined. Subcutaneous injection

with amylin dose-dependently slowed and/or delayed the absorption of the label. Plasma tritium activity was integrated over 30 minutes to obtain the areas under the curve plotted as a function of amylin dose. The ED₅₀ derived from the logistic fit was 0.35 μ g of amylin.

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